

Message Text

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PAGE 01 IAEA V 08113 201044Z

44

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 SCI-06 FEA-02

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FM USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5072

INFO AEC GERMANTOWN

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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USMISSION USUN

USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS IAEA VIENNA 8113

E. O. 11652: /A

TAGS: OCON, PARM, IAEA

SUBJECT: 18TH IAEA GENERAL CONFERENCE: INDIAN STATEMENT

1. FOLLOWING IS VERBATIM TEXT OF SECTIONS OF SPEECH AT 18TH GENERAL CONFERENCE OF IAE DELIVERED BY HOMI N. SETHNA, CHAIRMAN, ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION, RELATING TO INDIAN EXPLOSION AND PROLIFERATION ISSUES. "WE NOTE WITH REGRET SOME OF THE STATEMENTS MADE AT THIS CONFERENCE REGARDING OUR POLICY OF PEACEFUL NUCLEAR EXPERIMENTS. WHILST DEPLORING THESE STATEMENTS WE DO NOT THINK THAT ANY USEFUL PURPOSE IS SERVED BY ENTERING INTO DETAILED ARGUMENTS OVER THESE UNFOUNDED ALLEGATIONS.

"HOWEVER, TO SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT, AS THE WORLD COMMUNITY IS AWARE, ON MAY 81 OF THIS YEAR, THE INDIAN ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION SUCCESSFULLY CONDUCTED A PEACEFUL UNDERGROUND NUCLEAR EXPERIMENT IT WAS A COMPLETELY CONTAINED EXPERIMENT AT LOW COST INVESTIGATIONS ARE IN PROGRESS TO DETERMINE THE DEPTH AT WHICH THE ACTIVITY IS CONTAINED. THIS EXPERIMENT FORMS A PART OF INDIA'S PROGRAMME FOR PEACEFUL USES OF ATOMIC ENERGY.

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 IAEA V 08113 201044Z

I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO REITERATE THAT IN

CONDUCTING THIS PEACEFUL NUCLEAR EXPERIMENT, INDIA HAS NOT VIOLATED ANY AGREEMENT, BILATERAL OR MULTILATERAL NOR ANY AGREEMENT INVOLVING THE IAEA OR THE PARTIAL TEST BAN TREATY. INDIA WAS ONE OF THE EARLIEST SIGNATORIES TO THE PARTIAL TEST BAN TREATY WHICH IT RATIFIED IN 1964 AND SHE IS FULLY AWARE OF THE OBLIGATIONS SHE HAS UNDERTAKEN UNDER THIS TREATY.

" IN NEED HARDLY UNDERLINE THE POTENTIAL ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF PEACEFUL NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS WHICH ARE ALREADY WELLKNOWN TO THE INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY. THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE IAEA'S TECHNICAL PANELS OF 1970, 1971 AND 1972 HAVE FURTHER UNDERSCORED THIS ASPECT.

" INDIA HAS ALWAYS RESERVED ITS RIGHT TO PURSUE ITS OWN INDEPENDENT POLICY OF USING NUCLEAR ENERGY FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES AND OF CARRYING OUT RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT INTO ALL MEANINGFUL APPLICATIONS OF NUCLEAR ENERGY FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. THE USE OF NUCLEAR EXPLOSION TECHNOLOGY UNDERGROUND IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THIS POLICY. IN A COMPETITIVE MARKET FOR FUELS AND NATURAL RESOURCES, THIS TECHNOLOGY IS VITALLY IMPORTANT FOR INDIA. INDIA HAS A RIGHT TO DEVELOP ITS OWN NATURAL RESOURCES IN ACCORDANCE WITH WELL-ESTABLISHED PRINCIPLES OF INTERNATIONAL LAW. INDIA SEES NO REASON WHY SHE SHOULD ALLOW HERSELF TO LAG BEHIND OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE ACQUISITION OF THE LATEST TECHNIQUES IN THE APPLICATION OF NUCLEAR ENERGY FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES.

"IT IS A CURIOUS ARGUMENT TO SAY THAT INDIA'S NUCLEAR EXPERIMENT FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSE HAS DAMAGED THE NPT AND THE CAUSE OF NON-PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS. IT BECOMES EVEN MORE CURIOUS WHEN THIS ALLEGATION IS MADE BY A COUNTRY WHOSE LEADERS HAVE OPENLY WELCOMED THE LARGE NUMBER OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS TESTS CONDUCTED IN THE ATMOSPHERE BY CHINA. INDIA HAS NOT BECOME A PARTY TO THE NPT FOR CERTAIN REASONS OF PRINCIPLES WHICH HAVE ALREADY BEEN MADE SUFFICIENTLY CLEAR IN THE DIFFERENT FORUMS OF UN, WE HAVE CONSIDERED, AND CONTINUE TO CONSIDER, THAT THE NPT IS AN UNEQUAL LEGAL INSTRUMENT; WE WOULD OBJECT TO IT SO LONG AS IT REMAINS DISCRIMINATORY IN CHARACTER. HOWEVER, INDIA HAS NEVER CAMPAIGNED AGAINST THE TREATY. INDIA IS OPPOSED TO NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND NATURALLY ALSO TO THEIR PROLIFERATION. WE HAVE CATEGORICALLY REPEATED THAT WE DO NOT INTEND TO MANUFACTURE ANY NUCLEAR WEAPONS. THIS WAS INDIA'S POLICY BEFORE THE NPT WAS CONCEIVED OF. ONE CANNOT THEREFORE UNDERSTAND THE ARGUMENT THAT INDIA'S NUCLEAR EXPLOSION FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 IAEA V 08113 201044Z

HAS HAD AN ADVERSE EFFECT ON THE FUTURE OF THE NPT. THE NPT STANDS OR FALLS BY ITS OWN MERITS OR DEMERITS.

" MY GOVERNMENT HAS REPEATEDLY DECLARED CATEGORICALLY THAT WE INTEND TO USE NUCLEAR ENERGY SOLELY FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES AND THAT WE ARE TOTALLY OPPOSED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS. THIS REMAINS THE POLICY OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA AND I WOULD LIKE TO REAFFIRM THIS POLICY IN THIS AUGUST ASSEMBLY."

COMMENT: WE UNDERSTAND MUCH OF THIS WAS ADDED TO OTHERWISE
LARGELY TECHNICAL SPEECH AFTER REMARKS MADE BY PAKISTAN AND
PHILIPPINES DELS. END COMMENT.

2. INDIANS ALSO DISCUSSED SAFEGUARDS FINANCING FORMULA IN
SHOMWHAT OMINOUS TONE, AS FOLLOWS:

" THE FORMULA FOR FINANCING OF SAFEGUARDS WHICH THIS
CONFERENCE APPROVED IN 1971 WAS CONCEIVED BEFORE THE IMPLICATIONS
OF THE PRESENT RATE OF GROWTH IN THE SAFEGUARDS ACTIVITIES OF
THE AGENCY WERE FULLY FELT. PRACTICALLY ALL THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
ARE ALREADY PAYING MORE TOWARDS THE SAFEGUARDS BUDGET THAN THE
MINIMUM ENVISAGED IN THE FORMULA. AS DELEGATES ARE WELL
AWARE, THE QUESTION OF SAFEGUARDS FINANCING IS TO BE REVIEWD
AT AN APPROPRIATE TIME AFTER 1975. IT IS THE VIEW OF MY DELEGATION
THAT SOME ADVANCE THINKING SHOULD BE DONE FOR REVIEWING
THE PRESENT CONCEPT OF SAFEGUARDS FINANCING. IN VIEW OF RECENT
DEVELOPMENTS IN THE FIELD OF NUCLEAR POWER PRODUCTION AND THEIR
CONSEQUENT IMPLICATIONS FOR THE AGENCY'S SAFEGUARDS ACTIVITIES,
THERE IS EVERY REASON THAT SUCH A REVIEW SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT
SOON."

COMMENT: THERE IS NOTHING NEW IN THIS EXCEPT THOUGHT THAT REVIEW
SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT SOON. GOI IS OBVIOUSLY SHOWING USG THAT
THEY HAVE A CAPABILITY TO CAUSE US SOME PROBLEMS. END COMMENT.
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